

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical switching and/or routing system including a first opto-electronic assembly, a router assembly, a second opto-electronic assembly and redirecting means interposed between the router assembly and the second opto-electronic assembly. Each opto-electronic assembly includes at least one module, each module having a detector, an amplifier and a laser.

During operation, the optical switching and routing system of this invention receives the input optical beams at the first opto-electronic assembly and emits a second group of optical beams from the first opto-electronic assembly. The second group of optical beams is received at the router assembly and each beam from the second group of optical beams is routed to a pre-selected location. From the pre-selected locations to which they have been routed, the second group of optical beams is redirected to the second opto-electronic assembly. The second opto-electronic assembly receives the second group of optical beams and emits the output beams.

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